

Remarks

Claims 7 and 10 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claim 7 is amended, and Claims 8 and 12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

The Office action rejects Claims 7, 8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 198 14 304.4. (*see also U.S. Patent No. 6,529,106, hereafter "Linhoff"*). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent Claim 7 is amended to include the feature of a valve housing includes a one-piece sleeve part and a retaining collar that forms an independent, operatively preassembled module, wherein said one-piece sleeve part receives the valve seat and has a stepped portion that accommodates a ring filter, and wherein the retaining collar is formed as a separate deepdrawn part fixedly attached to the one-piece sleeve part, as shown in Figure 4.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *See MPEP §2131.* Contrary to the Office action that all of the elements of Claim 7 is disclosed in Linhoff, at least the feature of a one-piece sleeve part and a retaining collar formed as a separate deepdrawn part fixedly attached to the one-piece sleeve part is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Linhoff, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

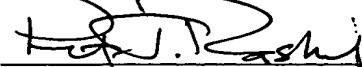
For at least this reason, Claim 7 is allowable over the applied art. Claim 10, which depends from Claim 7, is likewise allowable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Bastianelli believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 50-3145 in the name of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Rashid
Peter J. Rashid, Reg. No. 39,464

Joseph V. Coppola, Sr., Reg. No. 33,373
Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP

32270 Telegraph Road
Suite 225
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-2457
Attorneys for Applicant

Telephone No. (248) 566-8508

Customer No. 44200

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